

### 13. SECOND RECORD IN INDIA OF THE GECKO *GEHYRA MUTILATA* (PEROPUS)

During a tour to Kottayam, Kerala, in May 1963, Mr. S. R. Sane of Messrs Sachetan, Bombay, collected and presented a few specimens of Geckos to the Society, which were later identified as *Gehyra mutilata* (Peropus).

Though very widely distributed in the Oriental and Australian regions, there is only a single record of its occurrence in India (Cochin, Kerala) [Smith, F. B. I. Rep. & Amph. 2 : 106]. According to Mr. Sane the gecko is very common on trees in gardens along with *Hemidactylus frenatus* and is nocturnal in habit. The species is known to be transported in cargoes which may explain its occurrence in Cochin. The present record further south indicates that it has now established itself in south-west India.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
91, WALKESHWAR ROAD,  
BOMBAY 6-WB,  
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### 14. A LIST OF THE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE SURAT DANGS, SOUTH GUJARAT

The Surat Dangs area of south Gujarat where the Western Ghats dovetail with the Satpura range of hills is of considerable interest faunistically being the northernmost limit in the range of many species, for instance of birds (Ali, Sálím 1954)<sup>1</sup> previously believed to be restricted to the more humid regions of the southern ranges of the Western Ghats. The collections reported here are not extensive, made as they were when opportunities offered, by one of us (E. M. S.) during several years' stay at Ahwa, the Dangs District Headquarters, and together in July 1963 when J. C. D. visited the Dangs for a short period. The list can be considered only as a preliminary survey and we are confident that many species, now considered to be confined to the southern areas of the Western Ghats, would be recorded from the Dangs if an extensive survey were made of the herpetology of the area. Distributional records are mentioned only for species whose occurrence in the Dangs is an extension of the known range in the case of

<sup>1</sup>Ali, Sálím (1954) : The Birds of Gujarat. Pt. I. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 52 : 374-458,

amphibia and for reptiles, as given by Smith in the FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, Reptilia and Amphibia 1, 2 and 3.

## REPTILIA

### Family CROCODILIDAE

#### 1. *Crocodylus palustris* Lesson 1834

The Marsh Crocodile has been recorded at Mahal, Waghai, and Mulchond. The largest, approximately 10 to 12 ft. in length, was seen at Waghai. In March 1954 a small specimen about 1½ to 2 ft. in length was seen on the road near Mulchond but escaped capture by running into the grass by the side of the road. The nearest pool of water was about a furlong away. Formerly the *mugger* was quite common in the Dangs but in the past ten years or so it has become uncommon.

### Family EMYDIDAE

#### 2. *Geomyda trijuga* Schweigger 1814

Uncommon. A female collected on a road at night on 11 August, 1956 contained several oval hard-shelled eggs, and was perhaps in search of a suitable site to lay.

### Family GEKKONIDAE

#### 3. *Hemidactylus maculatus* Dum. & Bibr. 1836

Two specimens, one collected from the wall of an outhouse in 1958 and another inside the hollow of a tree at Ahwa in 1963. Near Bombay the species is most often seen on rocks and in rock-cut caves. The recorded distribution is Bombay District, Malabar, Salem, and Tinnevely in south India. Anderson (1871)<sup>1</sup> records a specimen from Berar in the collection of the Indian Museum but this has not been included either by Boulenger or Smith in their volumes of the FAUNA.

#### 4. *Hemidactylus brooki* Gray 1845

Common under stones and on trees. Those seen on stones in stream beds were invariably blackish.

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<sup>1</sup>Anderson, John (1871) : On some Indian reptiles. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*; 149-211.

5. *Hemidactylus leschenaulti* Dum. & Bibr. 1836

Common, one or two always on the wall near the mercury vapour lamp at the Ahwa Bus Depot, feeding on the enormous number of insects, mostly moths, attracted by the light. The geckos keep to the darker face of the wall away from the light.

6. *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* Rüppell 1835

One specimen taken off a trellis overgrown with jasmine vine in the mission compound.

## Family AGAMIDAE

7. *Calotes versicolor* (Daudin) 1802

Common. We noticed one specimen fast asleep, clinging to the wire mesh on a window adjoining the mercury vapour lamp at the Bus Depot at Ahwa oblivious of the insect food fluttering around. A clutch of 15 eggs found buried in loose soil in the Mission Garden in July 1955 began hatching on 7 September 1955. One of us (E. M. S.) has observed this species eating unripe pods with soft seeds of the *Lima* bean.

8. *Sitana ponticeriana* Cuvier 1844

One specimen at Waghai, the brown of the back was almost golden.

## Family CHAMAELEONIDAE

9. *Chamaeleon zeylanicus* Laurenti 1768

Fairly common.

## Family SCINCIDAE

10. *Mabuya carinata* (Schneider) 1801

Common.

11. *Riopa guentheri* (Peters) 1879

The extension of the range of this species to the Dangs has been already reported (J. C. Daniel, 1962)<sup>1</sup>.

## Family TYPHLOPIDAE

12. *Typhlops braminus* (Daudin) 1803

Common, often seen under logs and stones. Two were collected from a compost pit probably attracted by insect larvae and imagos.

<sup>1</sup>Daniel, J.C. (1962) : Extension of range of the skink *Riopa guentheri* (Gray). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 59(3) : 965.

Family BOIDAE

13. *Eryx conicus* (Schneider) 1801

Fairly common, often mistaken for Russell's Viper.

14. *Eryx johni* Russel 1801

Common.

15. *Python molurus* (Linnaeus) 1758

Not uncommon. A 10 ft. long specimen was shot at Mulchond in 1959. An 8½ ft. long female collected in June 1954 at Ahwa contained sixty eggs.

Family COLUBRIDAE

16. *Ptyas mucosus* (Linnaeus) 1758

Common.

17. *Oligodon arnensis* (Shaw) 1802

One specimen. The scalation and markings agree with Smith's data for specimens from India south of lat. 20° N.

18. *Ahaetulla tristis* (Daudin) 1803

One specimen; not uncommon.

19. *Sibynophis subpunctatus* (Dum. & Bibr.) 1854

One specimen collected at Mulchond, 5 miles from Ahwa. The species is believed to occur north of lat. 18° and has been recorded in the Nasik District of Maharashtra adjoining the Dangs. There appears to be confusion in collection records between this species and *S. sagittarius*.

20. *Natrix piscator* (Schneider) 1799

Common, especially during and after the monsoon.

21. *Natrix stolata* (Linnaeus) 1758

Common.

22. *Macropisthodon plumbicolor* (Cantor) 1839

Common. The habit of erecting the forebody and flattening the head like a cobra was noticed in one specimen.

23. *Boiga trigonata* (Schneider) 1802

One specimen, on a jasmine vine in the Mission compound.

24. **Boiga forsteni** (Dum. & Bibr.) 1854

A correction is necessary to the earlier report on this species where it was recorded that the specimen collected by McCann at Mt. Abu was not reported earlier (Daniel 1962)<sup>1</sup>. McCann recorded this specimen in the *Journal* 43 : 645 (1946). The specimen from Ahwa was collected while it was trying to swallow a juvenile myna.

25. **Dryophis nasutus** Lacépède 1802

Fairly common.

## Family ELAPIDAE

26. **Bungarus caeruleus** (Schneider) 1801

Fairly common.

27. **Naja naja** (Linnaeus) 1758

Fairly common.

## Family VIPERIDAE

28. **Vipera russelli** (Shaw) 1797

Common. Every year during the grass-cutting season after the monsoon a few are seen and killed.

29. **Echis carinatus** (Schneider) 1801

Fairly common.

30. **Trimeresurus gramineus** (Shaw) 1802

Fairly common at Ahwa, usually seen on hedges. A Rhode Island Red cock bitten by one died in about 20 minutes.

## AMPHIBIA

The amphibians unless otherwise mentioned were collected in the last week of July 1963.

## Family BUFONIDAE

31. **Bufo melanostictus** Schneider 1801

Specimens collected: Ahwa 1 ♂, 2 juv.; Waghai 1 juv.

The male has the throat yellow but the nuptial pads on the fingers are peeling. Of the juveniles the two collected at Ahwa (22 mm., 25 mm.) appear to be of an earlier brood and the Waghai specimen

<sup>1</sup> Daniel, J.C. (1962) : Extension of the known range of the Catsnake, *Boiga forsteni* (Dum. & Bibr.). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 59(3) : 966-7.

(10 mm.) of the current season. Breeding was over in July. No tadpoles were seen nor was any breeding activity noticed among the adults. The call was not heard. Several were seen below lights feeding on insects.

#### Family MICROHYLIDAE

##### 32. *Microhyla ornata* (Dum. & Bibr.) 1841

Common. The male was heard calling and four were located in grass with some difficulty. Average size 23 mm. A shoal of tadpoles were seen in a rainwater pool overgrown with grass.

##### 33. *Uperodon globulosum* (Günther) 1864

Specimens collected: Ahwa 1 ♂, 1 ♀ July; 1 ♂, 1 juv. August 1963.

A male was located by its distinctive call in a small cement cistern on the evening of 30 July. When sighted it dived into the water and in searching we missed the male but collected a female. The male was caught later in the night by E. M. S., when it resumed calling. The call was not heard before the 30th but was heard on subsequent days at Ahwa and at Waghai. The breeding season is apparently later in the Dangs than in Bombay (June). Tadpoles were not seen. The species has not been recorded north of Bombay on the west coast.

##### 34. *Ramanella montana* (Jerdon) 1854

Specimens collected: Ahwa 1 ♂, June 1963.

A specimen was collected in June while calling from a small cavity containing water on a mango tree. Its occurrence at Ahwa marks the northernmost range of its distribution. The species has so far been reported from Bombay to Trivandrum in the coastal and hill areas.

#### Family RANIDAE

##### 35. *Rana cyanophlyctis* Schneider 1799

Very common, calling at Ahwa and Waghai. In this species however the calling is not restricted to the breeding season. One specimen was rufescent brown in colour.

##### 36. *Rana limnocharis* Boie 1835

Common. Three males were collected from a dry nullah after a shower of rain. The smallest breeding male measured 28 mm. and had a broad light-coloured band on the back. The specimens collected resemble the var. *syhadrensis* of Annandale.

37. *Rana tigrina* Daudin 1803

Common. A juvenile collected has three yellowish green lines on the body, one median and two lateral from behind the eye to the groin with a branch to the shoulder. Adults seen were not breeding.

38. *Rana breviceps* Schneider 1799

A male (45 mm.) was collected while calling. The call is a soft *awang* which can be heard at considerable distances. The tibio-tarsal articulation lacks the tubercle noticed in some south Indian specimens. Though robust they are not toad-like as are specimens from the south (Trivandrum), resembling in this character specimens from Bombay. Tadpoles were collected from a hill-stream as well as just metamorphosed young which measure c. 10 mm.

39. *Rana leithii* Boulenger 1888

Several tadpoles were collected at a hill-stream off rocks wetted by spray. Very active and the coloration so well matches the dark grey of the rocks that it is very difficult to distinguish them. The recorded distribution of the species is from Panchgani to Bombay.

## Family RHACOPHORIDAE

40. *Rhacophorus leucomystax maculatus* Gray 1832

Common, heard at night on trees surrounding a small rainwater pool.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN MISSION,  
AHWA, VIA BILLIMORA,  
DANGS DISTRICT, GUJARAT STATE,  
November 27, 1963.

E. M. SHULL

15. OCCURRENCE OF THE FUNGOID FROG *RANA MALABARICA* (BIBR.) AT JAGDALPUR, BASTAR DISTRICT, M. P.

Recently one of us (T. G. S.) collected a frog at Jagdalpur, Bastar District, M. P., which was later identified as the Fungoid Frog [*Rana malabarica* (Bibr.)]. The species is not uncommon in the Bastar area of Madhya Pradesh. *Rana malabarica* has so far been reported only from the Western Ghats from Kasara Ghat near Iगतपुरी (Abdulali